REFERENCES AND REVIEWS

CHANGES IN VENTILATION FOLLOWING COMPLICATED PULMONARY RESECTIONS—D. V. Pecora. Dis. Chest—Vol. 40:491 (Nov.) 1961.

A study of the functional changes which accompany various post-thoracotomy states has been accomplished by the authors. They found that vital capacity is one of the most sensitive measurements of postoperative changes. Changes in post-thoracotomy emphysemas, hemothoraces, atalectases, pneumothoraces, and "spreads," unless extensive, do not produce severe functional changes.

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SINGLE TROPHOBLASTIC CELLS IN VAGINAL SMEARS—Z. M. Naib. Cancer—Vol. 14:1183 (Nov.-Dec.) 1961.

Malignant-looking trophoblastic cells were found in the vaginal smears of 32 out of 30,677 patients investigated. The differentiation of these cells from those exfoliated from in situ and undifferentiated carcinomas of the cervix is illustrated by a table and several pictures. It is important to recognize the true nature of these cells in order to prevent unnecessary surgical interventions on young pregnant women.

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EFFECTS OF AGE AND HABITUS UPON THE MEAN ELECTRICAL AXIS OF ELECTROCARDIOGRAM IN NORMAL MALES—A. J. Luskin and G. H. Whipple. Ann. Intern. Med.—Vol. 55: 610 (Oct.) 1961.

The mean electrical axis of the QRS was obtained from 1,025 males between the ages of 20 and 79 who were free of demonstrable cardiopulmonary disease. By means of IBM digital computers, a nomogram plotting age against the quotient of height by the third power of the weight as predictors of the mean electrical axis was construed to permit more precise clinical evaluation of the range of normal. The correlation between electrical axis and blood pressure was not of sufficient magnitude to include this factor in the nomogram. Our data indicate a far greater range of normal axis than previously reported. However, for any individual whose age, height, and weight are known, the limits of axis are actually much narrower than the previously accepted "normal" range.

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PERIPHERAL NERVOUS SYSTEM OF HUMAN LARYNX—W. F. Konig and H. von Leden. Arch. Otolaryng.—Vol. 74:494 (Nov.) 1961.

The development of the peripheral nervous system of the human larynx was studied on embryos, newborn infants, and small children. Both the sensory innervation of the mucous membrane and the nervous structures of the vocalis muscle presented marked differences from the fully developed adult larynx. A clear differentiation of the various nervous elements is not feasible until the third year of life.

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INTRAVENOUS REPLACEMENT OF HUMAN SPLENIC TISSUE—M. F. A. Woodruff and B. Nolan. Lancet—Vol. 2:689 (Sept. 23) 1961.

Three cases are reported in which the spleen has been removed prior to the administration of cytotoxic drugs for advanced cancer and replaced afterwards in the form of an intravenous infusion of splenic tissue. The procedure appears to promote hemopoietic recovery, and the suggestion is made that it might also contribute to the destruction of the tumor.

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